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PATENT APPLICATION

Serial No. 09/787,998

Attorney Docket No. 2204-002012

3726
#6
Election
1/17/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group Art Unit 3726 :
In re: Application of :
HIROFUMI TAKETSU et al. : ALUMINUM-PLATED STEEL
Serial No. 09/787,998 : SHEET FOR FUEL TANK AND
Filed March 23, 2001 : PROCESS FOR PRODUCING
FUEL TANK FROM THE STEEL
SHEET

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
June 20, 2002

ELECTION WITH TRAVERSE

BOX NON FEE AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This Election with Traverse is in response to the Restriction Requirement set forth in the Office Action dated May 20, 2002, in the above-identified patent application.

The Examiner states that this application contains claims directed to two patentably distinct inventions, namely: (a) Invention I: claims 1-7 covering an aluminum coated steel sheet for a fuel tank; and (b) Invention II: claims 8-10 covering a method of manufacturing a fuel tank. Applicants respectfully point out that claims 1-7 and claims 9 and 10 are directed to an aluminum coated steel sheet and claim 8 is directed to a method of

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on June 20, 2002.

Regina Dugan
(Name of Person Mailing Paper or Fee)

Signature

Regina Dugan

06/20/2002
Date

manufacturing a fuel tank. Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement for the following reason.

Applicants believe that due to the relationship between the inventions a complete search with respect to Invention I should be co-extensive with a search with respect to Invention II and would not pose any undue burden on the Examiner to search both inventions in the single application. Furthermore, the method of making a fuel tank defined in the nonelected claims requires the use of an aluminum coated steel sheet according to the elected claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the restriction be withdrawn and all of claims 1-10 be examined. However, should the Examiner maintain the restriction requirement, Applicants hereby elect Invention I (which is believed to include claims 1-7 identified by the Examiner, as well as claims 9 and 10 for the reasons described above) for initial examination.

Respectfully submitted,

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